

**California Department of Conservation  
Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program**

**2004 FIELD REPORT**

**COUNTY:** Imperial

**FIELD MAPPER(S):** Jan Carey

**IMAGERY:**

*source:* NASA-Ames Research  
*date:* 8/8/03 and 7/28/04  
*scale:* 1:130,000  
*film type:* CIR  
*coverage gap:* none  
*additional imagery:* USGS Landsat 7 ETM+

**WRITTEN, DIGITAL & ORAL INFORMATION SOURCES:** *Please list which local governments, interest groups, or individuals submitted comments on the 2002 maps. Also list all phone and in-person contacts made or related GIS data referenced while conducting the 2004 update.*

- *local review comments:* none
  - cities:*
  - county:*
  - others:* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- *personal contacts:* None
- *websites:* <http://www.imperialcounty.com/>

**2002-2004 CHANGES\*:** *Please summarize the most common changes to the maps. List representative locations (quads) of each type of change encountered. Make sure to list and describe particularly large, unusual or notable changes and give estimates of the acreage involved.*

**Note:** This is the first update in which we obtained high-resolution imagery with complete coverage of the mapped area, allowing more accurate boundaries to be drawn throughout the county. These adjustments affected all categories throughout the county. The changes listed below are only representative of the total number of actual changes. Acreage figures are approximate for reporting purposes.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Urban and Built-up Land:** 16 changes.

Using the complete imagery coverage, conversions and refinements to Urban and Built-up were made throughout the county.

The most notable changes are:

*City of Imperial* (El Centro quad, 32115G5).

- Over 100 acres of new housing including the Paseo del Sol community.
- 45 acres new Border Patrol Station.
- 40 acres of apartments including the Imperial Garden Apartments.
- Additions of buildings adjacent to Imperial County Airport area.

*Calexico* (Calexico quad, 32115F4).

- Three additions of new housing in the northern Calexico for a total of 185 acres, for example Victoria Villas and Eastside Village.
- Southeast Calexico has an additional 25 acres of new housing.

*Other Urban conversion examples.*

- Additions of and enlargements to geothermal facilities in the northern portion of the county (Obsidian Butte quad, 33115B6 and Niland quad, 33115B5).
- Enlargement of a water treatment facility on the Iris quad (33115B4).

➤ **Local or Other Land to Urban and Built-up Land:** 26 changes.

As mentioned above, conversions occur throughout the county.

Most notable are:

- 75 acres of new housing in the eastern El Centro area.
- 20 acres new housing in Brawley (Brawley quad, 33115H5).
- Additions of a runway to the Imperial County Airport and buildings in the adjacent area (El Centro quad).
- 15 acres of new commercial buildings including a Home Depot south of I-8 next to the future site of the Imperial Valley Shopping Center (El Centro quad).
- Small addition on the Imperial Valley College campus (El Centro quad).
- The Heber area added 10 acres of housing along with small commercial and airport changes (Heber quad, 32115f5).
- The 15-acre Multi-modal Truck yard was added (Calexico quad).

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Local:** 15 changes.

According to the definition for Farmland of Local Importance for Imperial County, farmland that qualified for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance and has been idle for three or more update cycles is converted to Local. These changes have occurred throughout the county. Most of the soils in the Imperial Valley meet this criteria.

➤ **Irrigated Farmland to Other Land:** 55 changes.

Improved imagery coverage has also led to refinements of existing features and additions to Other Land countywide.

- The most significant amount of acreage change in this category is due to boundary refinements of the riverbeds of the New, Alamo, and Colorado Rivers.
- Additions and boundary refinements to water structures such as irrigation canals and farm ponds also contribute.
- Many occur as farmland is converted to low-density rural housing.
- Several feedlots have been added and expanded countywide, most notably a 50-acre feedlot south of Niland (Westmoreland East quad, 33115A5).

➤ **Local or Other Land to Irrigated Farmland:** 39 changes.

Again, these changes occur countywide. Most notable are two irrigated ag additions in the northern county total 320 acres (Wister quad, 33115C5).

➤ **Local to Other Land:** 15 changes.

The conversions in this category are much like Other Land conversions listed above. For example:

- Riparian changes made on the three major rivers and the Salton Sea.
- Additional rural residential and roads added countywide.
- Canal and water structures boundary refinements and additions.
- Rail yard expanded (Brawley quad).

➤ **Unusual:** 37 changes.

These changes are primarily conversions due to additions and refinements to existing land uses. The most notable changes involve conversions to and from Water features. For example, Lake Haughtelin in the southeast county was included in the Water category since it's area is greater than 40 acres (Bard, 32114G5).

**LABOR ESTIMATE:** *Please estimate the amount of time spent on the following tasks.*

*photo interpretation, start date: 11-8-04*

*photo interpretation, number of days: 30 days*

*ground truthing dates: 12-13-04 to 12-16-04*

*# days for map compilation and clean up: 24 days*

\* **Note:** **Irrigated Farmland** = Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or Unique Farmland; **Local** = Farmland of Local Importance

*Further information on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program can be found at:*

[www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp)